Astr 400/500 (the Astronomical Unit): Fall 2014

Astr 400/500 is a seminar course on current research topics in astronomy, astrophysics, and space physics, intended for juniors and seniors (400) and graduate students (500). Each week there will be 1 or 2 speakers which may include faculty, visiting scholars, or students. Students will be expected to give one oral presentation each semester.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes: This course is primarily intended to expose the students to a range of astronomy related research being conducted in the department and more generally within the scientific community. The course is also intended to give students the opportunity to begin to develop their skills at giving oral scientific presentations. This second goal is particularly important for graduate students taking Astr 500.

Schedule

(schedule will be updated throughout the semester)

Date: Speaker

Aug. 27: Orientation

Sept. 3: Andrea Isella (Rice University), "From Disks to Planets: Observational Insights"

Sept. 10: Eric Feigelson (Penn State), "MYStIX : A New Look at Clustered Star Formation"

Sept. 17: Chris Done (Durham Univ.), "Testing Einstein's Gravity with Black Holes"

Sept. 24: Turlough Downes (Dublin City University), "Global multifluid MHD simulations of the magnetorotational instability in protoplanetary disks"

Oct. 1: Open

Oct. 8: Joel Green (UT Austin), "The Violent Early Lives of Stars and Planets"

Oct. 15: Wei Chen (Rice) / Xan Henderson (Rice)

Oct. 22: Andy Liao (Rice) / Joe Barchas (Rice)

Oct. 29: Shane Alpert (Rice) / Landon Blair (Rice)

Nov. 5: Tom Maccarone (Texas Tech)

Nov. 12: Scott Wilks (LLNL)

Nov. 19: Edison Liang (Rice) / Wen Fu (Rice)

Nov. 26: Eric Agol (U. Washington), "Detection and characterization of (potentially habitable) exoplanets"

Dec. 3: Hui Li (LANL)